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RPA Banquet Table by Table • 50th Anniversary of the RPA-and What it Began
Looking Forward...

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The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

RPA Reaches 100!

Our club can now claim to have reached a real milestone—the 100 year mark! On March 12, 1913 a group of 13 men met for the first time at the Rochester Hotel downtown to form the Rochester Philatelic Association. The rest, as they say, is history.

In honor of the occasion, this is a special edition of Hinges & Tongs. It recounts our celebration plans, the club's Centennial Dinner and remembers our 50th, too!

Banquet Plans Develop

Over the summer of 2012 the RPA Board members met to formalize plans honoring the club's 100th. Discussions had been taking place for many months beforehand to get ideas from members and officers alike. A Board vote sealed the deal. The club would sponsor a dinner for RPA members and their guests. Various dates were suggested, but all agreed to hold it on the actual evening of the anniversary, Tuesday, March 12.

Volunteers were solicited to form the Centennial Dinner Committee and three members came forward to work on its planning, Florence Wright, Don Grover and Rich Spinelli. Several venues were considered, but Don's suggestion of holding it at Locust Hill Country Club where he is a member proved to be the best.



An invitation was drafted, printed and sent out to all 99 RPA members in early February inviting them and a guest to attend by sending in their RSVP return envelope to Florence by the end of the month.

Attending Members and Guests

A total of 80 people attended the dinner, including 48 members and 32 guests (g):

Charles Adrion	John Lighthouse
Suzanne Adrion (g)	David Marcus
Bruno Antonini	Angelica Marcus (g)
L. Kelly Armstrong	Scott A. Martz
Kathy Armstrong	Melinda Martz (g)
William E. Arthur	Khadijha McFadden (g of Miller)
Beverly Arthur (g)	Cathy McMahon (g of Wright)
Robert E. Bass (g of Hull)	Whitney McMahon (g of Grover)
Michael Bloch	Robert Meegan
David Bombard	Mary Meegan (g)
Diane Bombard	Carl Miller
Tina Borelli (g of Tritto)	Kathy Minarik (g of Kingston)
Paul Brach	Bridget Morgenstern (g of Stone)
Catherine Brach (g)	Ada Prill
William Brorein, Jr.	David Prill (g)
John Cali	David Robinson
Marcia De Cesar (g of Kingston)	David Roehrig
Robert A De Lena	Kathleen Roehrig (g)
Margie De Lena (g)	John Rogers
Joseph Doles	Eileen Rogers
Nancy Doles (g)	Jack Rosenstein
Don Drexler	Mario Sarra
Philomena Drexler (g)	Gail Sarra (g)
Steven H. Eisinger	Charles Schultz
Thomas Fortunato	Shirley Schultz (g)
Luis Greiff, Jr.	Mary M Smith
Donald Grover	Mark A. Smith (g)
Barry Hartley	Richard Spinelli
Mary Lou Hartley (g)	Kathleen Spinelli (g)
Frederick Haynes	Elli Steeb
Patty Haynes (g)	Robert Steeb (g)
Susanne Hodge (g of Tritto)	Raymond Stone
Frederick Hodge (g of Tritto)	James Trenton
Alex Hrabko	Frank Tritto
Valerie J. Hrabko (g)	Claude B. Van Volkenburg
Mark Hull	Barbara Van Volkenburg (g)
Mary Iman	Loretta Welch (g of Bombard)
William Iman (g)	Florence Wright
Richard Kase	
John Kellas III	
Robert Kingston	
Anthony Labrum	



Welcoming signs



Welcome and Introduction of Attendees



Entrance table



By RPA President Tom Fortunato

Good evening, and let me welcome each of you to the Rochester Philatelic Association's centennial dinner celebration.

You've probably heard the old adage that stamp collectors are just a group of grumpy old men with glasses and grey hair... if they have any at all. Not true! But that does accurately describe another group meeting right now... Any idea who that is? How about the College of Cardinals conclave at the Vatican!

Let me start out tonight by recognizing and thanking the three members who made up the Centennial Dinner Committee...

- Florence Wright- Hospitality and Reservations
- Don Grover- Banquet Facility Liaison
- Rich Spinelli- Banquet Program and Door Prizes

To get things going I think it's appropriate that we go around the room and ask members to introduce themselves, their guests, and if they know it, mention the year when they joined the RPA.



Pre-dinner hors d'oeuvres of international and domestic cheeses, fresh fruit, and crackers



First at the bar—Ray of course!



(Champagne was poured while everyone identified themselves and their guests around the room.)

You'll probably have noticed that some bubbly was poured during our introductions. Here's Florence Wright to explain.

Champagne Toast



By Florence Wright

Good evening. Before we begin our anniversary celebration, I would like us to honor those members who once moved among us but now have moved on to their reward. Would all those who are able, please rise.

Please join me in a moment of silence to pay tribute to the memory of our friends and members who blessed our activities with their presence before they were taken away - by death. (pause) Amen.



And now, to begin our festivities, thanks to our member Gordon Morison, who is unable to be with us, but who wanted us to really celebrate this occasion. He has graciously provided us with champagne for a toast. So please join me in a toast—TO US!

To our past—which has favored our stamp collecting group with growth and fellowship through the years. To our future—with its hopes and anticipations for continued successes and camaraderie. To the present—that gives

us the opportunities to enjoy, pursue and promote the hobby that give us pleasure - stamp collecting.

May we always look forward with pleasure and backward with good memories. Thank you.

Dinner is Served



Dinner then began, starting with a served salad plate and tables invited one by one to the buffet tables.

The Menu

House Salad • Rolls and Butter • Steamed Seasonal Vegetables • Wild Rice • Shallot Whipped Potatoes • Flank Steak with Roasted Garlic and Rosemary Demi Glaze • Chicken French with Sherry Lemon Butter Sauce • Cookies • Brownies • Coffee and Tea

Correspondences from Absent Members

By Florence Wright

A number of members who couldn't be with us tonight wrote in to share their warm wishes with everyone tonight.

Karen and Duncan Barber: Wanting to come and being able are two different things and, unfortunately, this is one occasion we will have to pass on. With Duncan having successfully defended his PHD thesis he now has to do all the editorial corrections and a bunch of paper work and get all the copies made, etc. by sometime in March. He is also a marshal for the Silver Spoon Races again this year. That happens this weekend. So, I'm afraid we very much regret that we won't be able to join you in the celebration. I hope it's a good one and everyone enjoys it immensely.

Fred Bradybaugh: We would love to attend but my wife and myself are not enjoying the best of health at this time, so we will be unable to come. I hope it will be a great success and that all will enjoy it very much. Have a happy 100th.

Nancy Clark: Have a wonderful gathering. Wish I could be there. Again, have a grand time.



Nancy Clark



Cheryl Edgcomb



Leonard Patti



Gordon Morison

Cheryl Edgcomb: The Centennial Dinner sounds wonderful, but I must send regrets that I cannot attend this year. I am attaching a current photo (*when I set my Guinness Rainbow Collection Record) for you. I send regards and best wishes to all. Will see you all at ROPEX this year! Warm wishes, from Cheryl.

Gordon Morison: Sends his best wishes in a congratulatory letter to the members attending this evening:

"I very much regret that Mary Jane and I will be unable to attend the Centennial Dinner of the Rochester Philatelic Association on March 12. I had really wanted to participate in your celebration and even had reserved the dates to attend ROPEX this year as I had expected the anniversary celebration might be at that time. Unfortunately we will be in Europe at that time of your March event on a trip we planned and committed to about a year ago.

"I hope that you will convey my best wishes to the club and the other members. The Rochester Philatelic Association was very important to me when I lived in Rochester from the mid-1950s through the 1960s. We had many friends in this club and through it many others in the Niagara and central New York Federations of Stamp clubs.

"I remember the golden anniversary celebration with our 50-hour "round the clock" show at Midtown Plaza. Could that actually be 50 years ago? I think the RPA really gave me my start in philately at that time. We all thought it was a lot of hard work, but I must say it was fun and very rewarding. Now you are all conducting a national exhibition annually. And this year, ROPEX has a double national exhibition. You are to be congratulated on that.

"Thank you very much for inviting us."

Don Osborne: Don writes that he has recently fallen, is in the hospital and will regrettably miss the dinner.

Leonard Patti: Received the notice about the March dinner. I will not be attending. My wife and I are currently in Florida and won't be back to Rochester until April. I'm sure that the dinner will be a great success and I'm sorry to be missing it.

John Stoltz regrets he cannot attend, as he will be in Florida until May 1st.

Notable Events and People in RPA History

By Tom Fortunato



Hotel Rochester, 1908

Rogers and Hammerstein had it right when they penned the phrase, "Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start" in "The Sound of Music." You'll find details of the club's origins in your program.

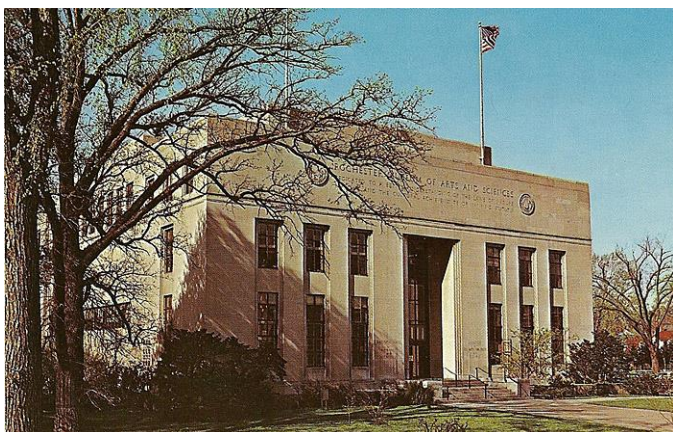


Interior. Hotel Rochester, Rochester, N. Y.

Thirteen men met for the first time exactly 100 years tonight, March 12 in the lobby of the Hotel Rochester on Main Street. Many of them were members of the Rochester Numismatic Association, the coin club established a year earlier. Annual dues were established at \$2 and the first meeting was set to take place in the hotel lobby two weeks later. The rest, as they say, is history.

The RPA has met at several places over the years. March 26, 1913- Hotel Rochester, first official RPA meeting, with meetings held every 4th Wednesday of the month.

- May 28, 1913- Monroe County Court House, Surrogate Court Room
- 1917-19- meetings alternated among the Ellwanger Barry Building, the Rochester YMCA and the Hotel Rochester every 4th Thursday of the month.
- July 24, 1919- meetings start at the Library Room of the Municipal Museum at Exposition Park, later named Edgerton Park.
- November, 1933- meetings changed to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month.
- 1942- meetings moved to the newly opened Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 657 East Avenue in the Hobby Room.
- 1962- meetings moved to the museum's basement.
- March 11, 1976- first meeting at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at East Avenue and Vick Park B.
- June 27, 2002- first meeting at 12 Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 Winton Road South.
- And just this past September 13, 2012 we held our first meeting at our current home at the Brighton reformed Church on Blossom Road.



Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, East Avenue

Among our "firsts" were these...

- First official RPA meeting- March 26, 1913 at the Hotel Rochester, 8 PM. Dues were \$2 per year, 50 cents for juniors.
- First RPA auction- October 22, 1913 of US and foreign stamps realizing \$8.65 in sales, \$1 of it going into the RPA Treasury.

- First RPA banquet- January, 1914 held jointly with the Rochester Numismatic Association.
- First members' competitive exhibit- March 25, 1914 showing countries of Europe. It ended in a 5 to 5 tie.
- First woman member- Mrs. Zimmerman who joined in June, 1914 and never attended another meeting.
- First honorary RPA member- Mr. D. Horetman, named on January 27, 1915.
- First expelled RPA member- M. Ottly on November 24, 1915 for failing to pay a dealer in Bath, England \$37.22 for stamps.
- First RPA mail auction- May 20, 1964 containing 1129 lots receiving 4100 bids. Total CV of all lots was \$32,000, of which \$28,000 CV was sold for \$7,200 at about 26% CV per '64 prices.
- First "Champion of Champions" and national philatelic literature competition- September 19-22, 1968 at the RPA 50th anniversary exhibition.
- First "ROPEX"- September 24-26, 1971, ROPEX '71.
- First RPA souvenir card- January 21, 1974 issued during ROPEX/TOPEX '74 featuring the 1954 George Eastman stamp.

In reviewing the RPA's more recent history, and the thousands of club members who have come before us, the one in my mind who stands out as having the greatest impact on the club and a true leader, was Gordon Morison.

He and his wife Mary joined sometime back in the 1950's and were especially active in the 1960's. Both were presidents of the RPA, Gordon in 1958 then again in 1968/9, and Mary in 1960.

Gordon was instrumental in establishing the RPA as a national exhibition powerhouse, from the club's 1963 50th Golden anniversary "50 Hour Around the Clock" show held at the newly constructed Midtown Plaza, to the 1968 exhibition extravaganza hosting the APS convention and organizing the first APS "Champion of Champions" competition. His efforts laid the groundwork for the first ROPEX held in 1971. He and Mary left Rochester around that time, tapped by the Post Office Department to be an executive, and eventually obtaining every philatelists' dream job, head of the U.S. stamp issuing department as Third Assistant Postmaster General.

Gordon has sent me the text of a presentation he put together last year titled, "The 50th Anniversary of the Rochester Philatelic Association--and What It Begat" that will appear in the next issue of "Hinges & Tongs."

[See that article near the end of this issue.]

Gordon was here long before I joined the RPA, but his impact is still felt today. I had the pleasure of working with him on Washington 2006, the once a decade international extravaganza, and came to admire his leadership and management style.

I joined the RPA in 1992, and one of the members having the greatest impact on me was Larry Moriarty. Wow, what a character! And I mean that in a good way. How he became an APS judge and wasn't an APS member I'll never know. But it was he who showed me the ropes of judging, first as an apprentice in 1993 for the Central Federation of Philatelic Societies, riding together to regional shows such as CINCOPEX, SYRAPEX, BUFPEX and alike.

Anybody who knew Larry will remember that he was a very opinionated person, and at times he could get feisty, but he always eventually fell in line with the majority's decisions, even if he was the sole hold-out. One of our biggest benefactors in recent years was Andy Hale. I knew him first before becoming a member as the guy down Monroe Avenue running his stamp store with John, Randy and Ursula. He would always take the time to chat with all of his customers and was willing to share his guidance and knowledge with others. On joining the RPA I learned of his philanthropy to the club and greater Rochester as a whole. It was he who was instrumental in funding the exhibit frames that so many of you here tonight have labored over for so many shows, including this year's joint ROPEX/NTSS 2013 exhibition.

Just do a Google search on his name today to get a small idea of his impact on the community. Roberts Wesleyan College's Auditorium bears his name, as does a wing of the Al Sigl Center, just to name a few.



Ann Triggie



Duncan and Karen Barber



Ed Kawasaki

I remember some of the people who have moved away

from Rochester to go on to join other clubs, like Don Schurr, Jim Bell and others, as well as current RPA members residing elsewhere who are not with us tonight, like Ann Triggie in Sarasota, Florida; Ed Kawasaki in Los Angeles, California; and our club's love couple, Karen and Duncan Barber of Deep River, Ontario, who met at ROPEX and married!

It's sometimes difficult for a "youngster" such as myself to have seen so many people pass on to permanently close their albums. People whose names are ingrained in my memory include Dusty, Audrey, Bernice, Irma, and Iva; Norm, the tragic loss of Jim Curry; and so many others.

I'm sure some of these people I've mentioned will resonate in your memory as well.

As with life itself, nothing is permanent. We are only temporary caretakers of the material in our collections, hopefully to pass into the hands of others who will cherish it as much as we do. And remember, too, that what we do today--is the history of tomorrow.

The Psychology of Collecting



By Rich Spinelli

Virtually, everyone collects something. Not everyone realizes it or acknowledges it. Before you say "no, not me", consider these: Pictures of your children, photographs of your vacation, your favorite recipes, ticket stubs from ball games or Broadway shows, souvenirs of trips, athletic trophies, your kids' report cards and school work, pocket change, Christmas cards, birthday cards, buttons, jewelry, paperback novels, or just plain "junk" in that special kitchen drawer or in your basement.

On the more formal side of "collecting," many of us collected something which we ultimately made into a

hobby. It could have begun with baseball cards, marbles, coins or stamps.

I personally began collecting stamps as a young man, buying cheap stamp packs through the mail or at Niesner's Department Store. Like many of you, I eventually put my collection away for many years and got on with life. About 15 years ago, I struck it rich in a penny ante card game with some work colleagues, and as it happened, went to my first Ropex show the following day. With money burning a hole in my pocket, I spent all my winnings on a box lot of about 800 uncacheted covers with stamps from the 1930's and 40's. I was hooked again, and I've been spending my time and money on stamps and postal history regularly ever since.

Recently, I asked myself, "Why do people collect things, from Cracker Jack toys to manhole covers?"

Some people collect for investment: How about that "inverted Jenny" stamp which is worth thousands and thousands of dollars. I was going to turn my uncacheted vintage covers into newly re-cacheted covers and sell them for 100 times what I paid for them. Oh, well.

Some collect for pure enjoyment—it's fun. Some collect to expand their social lives, attending swap meets and exchanging information with like-minded souls.

For some it is collecting the really unusual that works best for them. People actually collect bad poetry, barbed wire, knock-knock jokes, wax paper liners out of cereal boxes, swizzle sticks, string, mouse pads, phone books, type fonts, clothing of famous people or prime numbers.

For some people, collecting is simply the quest, in some cases a life-long pursuit that is never complete.

For some, the satisfaction comes from experimenting with arranging, re-arranging, and classifying parts of a big-world-out-there, which can serve as a means of control to elicit a comfort zone in one's life, calming fears and erasing insecurity.

Others collect for psychological security, filling a void in a sense of self, or a means to distinction, much as uniforms make the "man." Collecting could be a means to immortality or fame.

Collecting motives are not mutually exclusive, and certainly many motives can combine to create a collector. As someone once said, "One does not eat just because of hunger."

During the 1700s and 1800s there were aristocratic collectors, the landed gentry, who roamed the world in search of fossils, shells, zoological specimens, works of art and books. The collected artifacts were then kept in special rooms ("cabinets of curiosities") for safekeeping

and private viewing. A "cabinet" was, in part, a symbolic display of the collector's power and wealth. It was these collectors who established the first museums in Europe, and to a lesser extent in America.

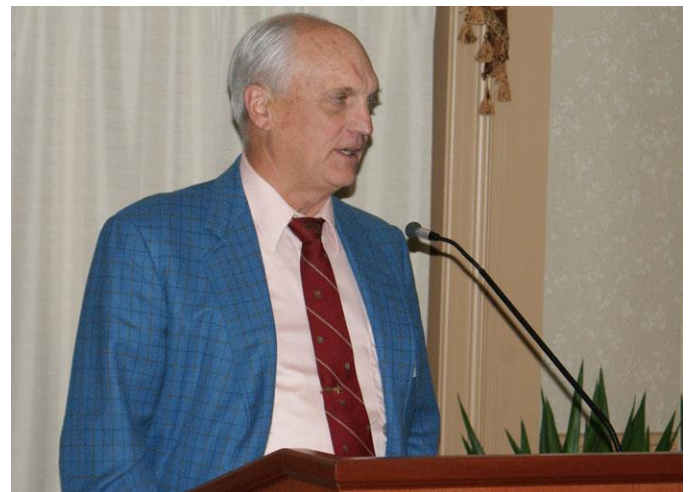
Sigmund Freud had something to say about collecting. He postulated that collecting ties back to the time of toilet training. Freud suggested that the loss of control and what went down the toilet was a traumatic occurrence and that, therefore, the collector is trying to gain back not only control but "possessions" that were lost so many years ago. Leave it to Freud to make us feel guilty about what we enjoy.

Collecting can become obsessive and result in "hoarding". Hoarding is considered a mal-adjustment because it interferes with an otherwise reasonable life for the hoarder and those who interface with the hoarder.

Some theorists suggest that hoarding is closely related to depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, deficits in decision-making, emotional attachments to objects, erroneous beliefs about possessions and other maladaptive beliefs.

So, collectors, now that you understand all about collecting and why you collect, forget about everything you just heard. Go about your collecting as you have for years for whatever reasons you find rewarding. Keep searching for the elusive watermark which turns you 15 cent stamp into that 15,000 dollar rarity. Spend your time and your money your way. And, most importantly, forget about your toilet training issues. Have fun!

Philatelic and Historic Tie-ins to our Anniversaries



By Don Grover

Welcome everyone and thanks to the RPA board for choosing Locust Hill for our banquet. Special thanks to Tom Fortunato, Rich Spinelli and especially Florence Wright.

This philatelic story began as a quest to find stamps issued on March 12, 1913, but I found none! The closest were 2 stamps issued the next day, March 13, 1913: the 50 cent U.S. parcel post stamp and the Sonora Provisional issued during the Mexican Revolution.

So then I researched world events for the date of March 12 in history, 515 BC to 2012 (total = 2527); World events for 1913 (total = 232); Important events for March, 1913 (total = 27). All that makes a grand total of 2786 entries! With that many we will make Senator Rand Paul's 13 hour filibuster of a few days ago look amateurish! So let's start by listing events that took place on March 12:

- 515 BC-- Second Temple of Jerusalem was completed
- 514 BC...

Let's skip ahead, shall we?



March 12, 1913

The creation of Canberra Day in Australia: The laying of the foundation of the new Parliament Building. Lady Denman, wife of the Gov. General, stood on the foundation stones and declared the name of the place Canberra, meaning "meeting place" in the native tongue. It opened May 9, 1927, at which time a commemorative stamp was issued.

One week ago, March 5, 2013, two commemorative stamps were issued for its 100th anniversary. Thus there were 2 stamps issued to commemorate the day the RPA was founded.

Other important 1913 events:

- January 1- Post office begins parcel post service: stamps were issued beginning Nov 12, 1912, and some were used before 1913. FDC's were issued July 1, 1913.



- February 2- Grand Central Terminal opened in New York City. And last month on February 2, 2013, a \$19.95 Express Mail stamp was issued to commemorate its 100th anniversary.
- February 3- 16th Amendment is ratified establishing the Federal Income tax (1%). Significantly no stamp has been issued to commemorate the event!

- February 4- Rosa Parks is born and March 4, Harriett Tubman dies in Auburn, NY
- February 17- The Armory show exposes US to the modern art of Europe. March 7, 2013, in Dallas Texas, a series of art stamps are released to commemorate its 100th anniversary. Also the date of Stanley Gibbons' death; he was born in June, 1840, one month after the Penny Black was issued.
- September 20- Francis Ouimet wins the 19th US Golf Open
- October 7- Ford Motor Company institutes the moving assembly line with a car produced every 2 minutes, 38 seconds
- October 8- The Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY, is dedicated by Rush Rhees. Going on this year is its 100th anniversary gala celebration.



- October- New York Philatelic Exhibition takes place. Mr. Ralph, Director of the Bureau of Engraving, said the U.S. produced 44 million stamps daily, making deliveries to 62,000 post offices, which would cover 8 acres if laid flat, or stretch 703 miles laid end to end with a face value of over 185 million dollars.
- October 10- The Gamboa Dam in Panama is blown up, mixing Atlantic and Pacific waters.
- October 27- President Wilson declares that we will never attack another country.



- November- The rarest of the U.S. Christmas seals is issued--a rectangular seal depicting Santa's sleigh with red crosses and poinsettias at either side.
- December 21- First crossword puzzle is published

Many of these events are commemorated on the "Celebrate the Century" sheets of 1998-2000.

Other stamps issued in 1913:



- Australia: Issued its first stamps, the kangaroo series
- British Empire: King George V series
- Japan: New definitive series issued. A frame from a juried exhibit at the Washington National Stamp Show of the stamps took first prize for its "clarity of information," which you can see for yourself when you read the underlying caption. It has a Rochester connection.
- Russia: 300th anniversary of the Romanov dynasty

And how about stamps issued on RPA anniversaries?

On our 5th Anniversary in 1918:

- With the break- up of the Russian Empire, Moscow becomes the country's new capitol on March 12, 1918.
- The end of World War I results in the establishment of many new stamp issuing countries, such as Armenia, Ukraine, Estonia, Lithuania, Yugoslavia, etc.

20th Anniversary, March 12, 1933:

- FDR (elected March 4) gave his first Presidential address to the nation instituting his "fireside chats" to announce the new deal.
- 1933 is also the year of the "Century of Progress" Exhibition in Chicago and the beginning of the controversial Farley Imperfs.

25th Anniversary, March 12, 1938:

- Hitler invaded Austria to re-establish "Anschluss," the reunification of Austria and Germany, ultimately leading to the Austrian overprints on German stamps.

50th Anniversary, March 12, 1963:

- Beatles sing as a trio because John Lennon is ill and unable to perform.
- January 7 postal rates increase to 5 cents; July 1 postal zip codes begin and September 30 John A. Gronouski is installed as the new Postmaster General of the United States.
- Russia withdraws from Cuba, and nuclear arms reduction negotiations begin
- But perhaps more importantly Wallace is elected Governor of Alabama on a campaign of "segregation forever" leading to race riots in the south and ultimate the march on Washington and Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech on August 28. And later on November 22, JFK is assassinated.

75th Anniversary, March 12, 1988:

No events were listed. But on March 9, President Ronald Reagan presided over the unveiling of the Knute

Rockne stamp and later that year the Victorian post office museum closed.

On the world stage, George Bush defeated Michael Dukakis for the presidency, Pan Am flight 103 is destroyed becoming known as the Lockerbie bombing, and the last Playboy Club closes in Lansing, Michigan.

And finally for this, our 100th Anniversary:

I would like to read some 2013 predictions made in 1913 by Sir Vansittart Bowater, London's new Lord Mayor at the time:

- A horse in the city will be more curious than airplane or dirigible flying over head
- Great airships carrying hundreds of passengers will cross both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans
- A channel tunnel will allow train service between London and Paris
- A visit to Mars or the moon may be practicable by harnessing yet unknown forces
- Postmarks and stamps may only exist as a curiosity

Stamp Events and Stamps Issued on March 12:

- 1899- Philippines decreed that excess stamps should be destroyed by punching a hole in their center. There is evidence that some of these punched stamps were used for postage anyways and that some were precancelled for release to collectors. Also these stamps were used as telegraph stamps which were identified by the holes already punched in them.
- 1909- The 15 cent ultramarine Washington stamp of the Washington/Franklin Issue has its earliest known use (EKU)
- 1912- Sweden issues the 8 ore stamp of the King Gustav V regular series
- 1945- Republic of China (Taiwan) releases set of 6 stamps for the second anniversary of the death of Sun Yat-sen



- 1968- Mauritius gets its Independence and issues 6 stamps the same day featuring the new flag, the coat of arms and a dodo bird
- 1975- Canada produces a \$1.00 and \$2.00 stamp for the upcoming Montreal Olympics
- 1984- USA commemorates the 25th Anniversary of Hawaiian Statehood
- 1985- Great Britain releases an insects series
- 1987- USA releases 75th Anniversary of Girl Scouting commemorative



- 2003- Greenland issues 3 dog stamps
- 2007- Canada issues booklet for HEC Montreal, part of its University series
- 2008- Micronesia issues a breast cancer awareness souvenir sheet
- 2009- Hawaii I Post issues Inter-island postage stamps commemorating cruise ships that visited Hawaii
- 2012- Bolivia issues a map stamp. Belarus issues 2 Europa stamps.

One Hundred Years of RPA Souvenirs and Mementos



By Rick Kase and Joe Doles

Throughout the evening members brought items to place on the display tables near the entrance. The photos below show the tables at various stages as it was filled.

Coordinated by Rick and Joe, it highlighted a variety for items from days past—from RPA and ROPEX covers, to exhibit pages, to awards and medals. Among the more interesting pieces were:

- A 21st RPA “birthday cake” cacheted cover
- A 1940 sheetlet with a Penny Black blowup inscribed, “Contributor to the Philatelic Committee of the British War Relief Effort” and signed by Franklin Roosevelt
- Stamp flowers made for the 50th anniversary dinner in 1963
- 1988 USPS metal die hubs used to cancel regular mail bearing a 75th RPA anniversary slogan

- Sample exhibit pages from Ray Stone's Transportation Coil collection
- Buttons advertising ROPEX/NTSS 2013



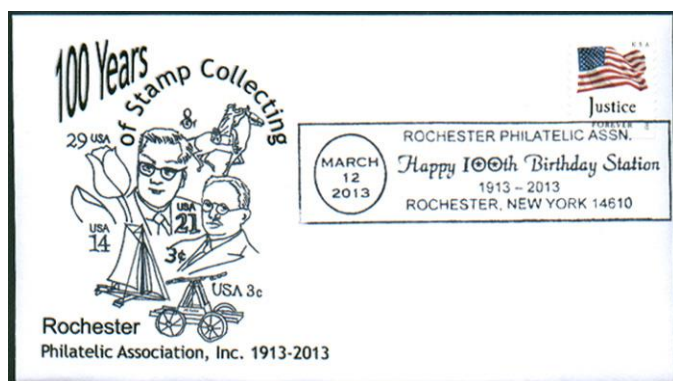
Before the tables were filled



More items are brought for viewing



The Moriarty, Miller and Hale Exhibit Award Plaques



Souvenir cover presented to dinner attendees
Cachet and cancel by Joe Doles

RPA Memories



By William E. Arthur

After an invitation for dinner guests to come to the podium and recount their activities with the club, Bill spoke briefly about attending club meetings first around 1948 as a teenager, then recounted the club's 50th anniversary and encounters with members Mark Hull (in attendance that night) and Gordon Morison.

Presentations



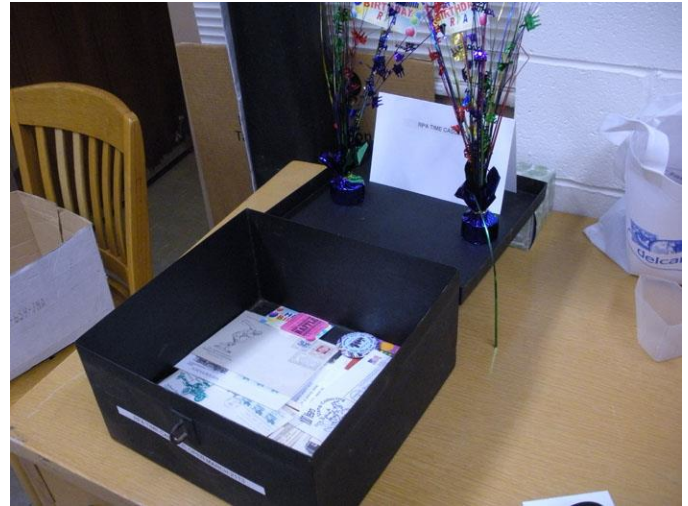
Tom hands gifts from the USPS Rochester Post Office to our most prolific cachet and cancel designers, Joe Doles and Kelly Armstrong.

Temporary Sealing of the Second Century Time Capsule

By Rich Spinelli and Tom Fortunato

A few weeks before the dinner Rich suggested that we create a time capsule filled with items for club members

100 years from now to ponder over. Dinner attendees were invited to bring items for it and it was temporarily sealed that evening. Material continues to be put into it at RPA meetings and will be permanently closed at the final club meeting of the season in June.



You can see some of the items here: various ROPEX programs and covers; a button advertising the 2013 ROPEX/NTSS stamp show; an evening's raffle ticket, table decorations, an anniversary cover and program from the dinner banquet; a stamp "flower" from the 50th RPA banquet; and assorted other covers and ephemera.

RPA Banquet Table by Table

Dave Robinson was able to take photos throughout the evening, including these showing everyone who sat at each table. Someone took his table's photo at Table 7!



Table 1

Mario and Gail Sarra; Elli and Bob Steeb; Carl Miller and Khadijha McFadden



Table 2

Anthony Labrum (standing); Charlie and Suzanne Adrion; Angelica and Dave Marcus



Table 3
John Kellas; Fred and Susanne Hodge; Frank Tritto and Tina Borelli; Michael Bloch; Dave and Kathleen Roehrig (standing)



Table 4
Bob and Mary Meegan; Bruno Antonini; Tom Fortunato; Florence Wright; Whitney and Cathy McMahon



Table 5
Bill and Mary Iman; Catherine and Paul Brach; Valerie and Alex Hrabko; Bill Brorein, Jr



Table 6
John Lighthouse; Kathleen and Rich Spinelli (standing); Steve Eisinger; Kathy and Kelly Armstrong; Chuck (standing) and Shirley Schultz



Table 7
Jack Rosenstein (standing); Melinda and Scott Martz (standing); Fred and Patty Haynes; Dave Robinson (standing); Bridget Morganstern and Ray Stone



Table 8
Eileen and John Rogers; Loretta Welch; Dave and Diane Bombard (standing); Luis Greiff, Jr. (standing); Joe and Nancy Doles



Table 9
Rick Kase; John Cali; Don Grover; Jim Trenton; Marcia De Cesar (standing); Kathy Minarik and Bob Kingston



Table 10
Barry and Mary Lou Hartley (sitting); Philomena and Don Drexler (sitting), Robert and Margie De Lena (standing); Claude and Barbara Van Volkenberg (standing)



Table 11
David and Ada Prill; Mark and Mary Smith (standing); Robert Bass and Mark Hull (sitting); Bill and Beverly Arthur



Cakes from our first RPA Meeting after the dinner



One of the stamped dinner programs.

The 50th Anniversary of the Rochester Philatelic Association--and What It Begat

By Gordon C. Morison

Although the Rochester Philatelic Association was drawing 35 to 50 members at each meeting in the 1960s, some members felt the group was not large enough to hold its own major show. Nevertheless, we had always taken our turn in staging a Niagara Federation of Stamp Clubs exhibition.



I and others were sure we could stage a major national exhibition, and we definitely had to do something big to mark the association's golden jubilee. The club would be 50 years old in 1963. It helped overcoming objections that I had served as president in 1958 and

two years later my wife, Mary, was president. We had joined the club in the mid-1950s. In those years, Mildred and Clark Place were our representatives to the federation, along with Helen Lauer and Eva Ripperger. Jim Wennnermark and Jane and Walter Wilson also were active. We had many summer picnics at Dorothy Fordham's house on Lake Road, Webster. We knew the dozen or so others who could always be counted on and together we set about to plan the celebration.

For a golden jubilee show, the club would need to borrow about 600 small 6-page frames from clubs throughout the state and the province of Ontario. That was the size frame Western New York exhibitions were using. Clark Place stored frames in his basement. I remember up and down those steps. Later Warren Stevens stored them in his garage. No more up and down. In all, we had about 100 of them ourselves. Now where to stage the show?

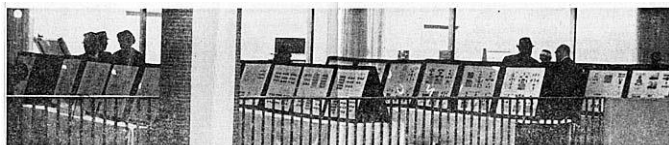


The major coming attraction in Rochester in 1963 was the new Midtown Mall, under construction downtown featuring its European style clock with revolving pods that opened to music every hour on the hour to show different ethnic dancers. What better place to hold the show than on the mezzanine of that new mall, but there might be a problem. The new mall would be open all night. Thus was born the theme of a 50-hour Round the Clock stamp exhibition, which would be the first major promotional event after the mall opened.

For the exhibition, we had to pick up all the frames we could get—704. Jim Papin, who was Eva Ripperger's son-in-law and just introduced to stamp collecting, joined me in my Falcon station wagon to make several trips around the state collecting frames. Mounting and working with such small frames, we needed a week to clean the frames, open them and mount the album pages. Just before the start, the frames were set on tables around the mezzanine and in one store which Midtown Plaza had not yet rented. Security? I had not thought of that. But, two members volunteered to stay up and walk the mezzanine all night as the public came and went. The mall was open 24 hours a day. That would not be a recommended approach today. But then, what did I know?

I noted in Linn's that the United Nations had sold its stamps at the Yakima, WA show. With that tip, I invited the U.N. to sell its new stationery items at Midtown Plaza. Their date of issue coincided with our show. The show opened at 3 pm on Friday and the U.N. cards and envelopes were gone before nightfall. A telephone call that evening brought in a new supply on the first Mohawk flight the next morning from New York to Rochester. One of our committee members met the airplane. This actually was only the second time the U.N. had sold its stamps outside New York City. We had to provide the manpower in the "U.N. post office" to sell the stationery and then had to remit the cash to the U.N. This also was a first day of issue for the six U.N. stationery issues.

We invited several specialty societies to participate. Warren Stevens, for example, invited the Guatemala Stamp Society to convene here. That brought a major Guatemala exhibit from Guatemala to the show and required us to learn how to deal with Customs. We posted a bond to ensure return of the material. We took out his exhibit and tossed the box and wrapping paper in the corner. When we rewrapped the package to return the exhibit, we just happened to pick up the same box. What did we find lying there in the box on our garbage pile? A large packet of stamps with a note stating he wanted us to sell them for him. We had never seen the packet in our haste to set up the show. Of course, we wouldn't have sold them even if we had seen them as our Customs bond required the return of everything. To this day I wonder whether the Customs officials knew this packet of Guatemala stamps was loose in there with the pages of the exhibit.



Among Them—a Stamp Valued at More Than \$7,000

Only part of Rochester's first international stamp exhibition, valued at \$100,000, is shown here on the terrace level of Midtown Plaza. The show extends through tomorrow. Marking the 50th anniversary of the Rochester Philatelic Association, the exhibition contains the most celebrated United States postage stamp—the upside down, 24-cent air mail stamp of 1915, valued at more than \$7,000. Exhibits are from this country, Canada, England, India, New Zealand, Central America.

April 27, 1963 Rochester D&C Newspaper article.

The show was a huge success. The D&C published a 6-column photo on its front local page showing the frame setup at the wide end of the mezzanine. That as well as the U.N. stamps helped draw crowds on Saturday and Sunday until we dismantled at 5 pm, 50 hours after opening.

What Followed

After the Round the Clock show, some of us thought it was time to plan another exhibition of our own and perhaps invite the APS to hold its convention in Rochester. Now, how do you do that? Jim DeVoss, APS executive director, said we should go to Washington for NAPEX in 1964 where they were meeting and make a presentation to the APS board of directors. The only convention experience I had was with the Jaycees whose annual conventions I had

attended several times across the country. The competition to host the next one was always quite keen, and loud.

We asked the Chamber of Commerce to back us, but we expected no money. And, we got none. Someone suggested we ask local companies to donate products to get the attention of the APS officers, and show them what we could do. Kodak, Stromberg-Carlson, Bausch & Lomb, French's and others donated products. Club members involved in the Round-the-Clock show were enthusiastic, but we still had naysayers. Nevertheless, we put together two busloads of collectors and spouses to go to NAPEX in Washington to lobby the APS directors for a Rochester convention.

We bagged the donations and at night hung these goodie bags of Rochester products, including cameras, on APS officers' hotel door knobs. We had painted signs and in the morning we all marched through the exhibition urging—loudly—that APS should come to Rochester in 1968. At the annual meeting we made such a ruckus shouting and waving signs that the APS Convention Committee chairman actually opposed Rochester getting the convention. He thought we were too rowdy. But other directors disagreed and gave us a chance.

Two years later we also went with a busload of Rochester collectors to SIPEX, the sixth international, in the same hotel, but we were a little more dignified in promoting the 1968 convention then.

After our experience with 6-page frames for a large show, the Rochester Philatelic Association was ready to buy about 160 of the 16-page SIPEX frames which would be available after that show, but we had to pick them up. Jim Papin rented a trailer this time, hitched it to my Falcon station wagon and we drove down to Baltimore where the SIPEX frames had been stored. The club said rent a motel room and they'd pay for it, but Jim and I agreed that was not necessary, we could sleep in the back of the station wagon and save the club money. In the wee hours of the morning we pulled into an industrial section of Baltimore where black smoke was billowing from nearby stacks. We jumped in back and slept a few hours until the warehouse opened and we were able to load the trailer. On the way home in Pennsylvania, a deer jumped out of the brush and ran into our trailer, but he didn't hurt the trailer or its contents. The load was so heavy, we had a hard time getting up some hills, especially the Springfield, NY hill on Route 15.



That 1968 APS convention's exhibition, which the RPA sponsored, is still having an impact on philately today, 45 years later. To make that show special and to gain publicity, we developed and featured the first World Series of Philately, Champion of Champions event. Without a doubt the World Series of Philately has contributed to expansion of stamp exhibiting in the US and generally has promoted the growth of philately over the years. There were 12 national shows in 1968 whose winners we invited to compete. Today there are 30-plus national shows competing. Rochester, itself, is one of them and now holds a stamp show annually.

We mailed engraved invitations to the grand award winners of the 12 national shows. To do this we had to find out who won and where they lived as there was no central depository of this information in those days. We gave them until July 1, 1968 (my birthday) to accept the invitations as that was the date the committee had set to meet to allot the available frames. We received 11 acceptances and we advised each of them the next day. At the same time we notified other collectors who had applied for the open competition and we allotted all the available frames.

Three days later the APS Executive Director Jim DeVoss called to tell me that he had spoken with the 12th winner (from COMPEX in Chicago) and now he also wanted to participate. Too late, I said, but I would call him and explain why. I told that collector (Bob Cunliffe of Pittsburgh) that he had missed the deadline and we had no more frames available, but if anybody canceled we would give him those frames. He was more than unhappy—after all, he was only three days late.

A month or so later the winner from WESTPEX in San Francisco died, and five frames became available. I called the COMPEX winner and offered him five frames. He was unhappy with us again as he said, "this exhibit requires 10." I told him take five or nothing. He accepted. Strange as it seems Bob Cunliffe's exhibit of U.S. revenues still became the first Champion of Champions. The judges also picked a second place winner, but I would not allow that to be awarded or announced. After all, every exhibitor was a Champion and no such exhibitor should be demoted to a runner-up second place. Nevertheless, I had to ask who that was. I've never told anybody since then, but I will tell you now. It was Jacob Legeer, a Rochester collector of classic U.S. stamps. I felt bad after I learned that.



The Rochester committee worked very hard to make the convention first class. We invited several major specialty societies to meet at the show. The Nolles family worked for months cutting and pasting common used stamps to form colorful flowers for corsages and boutonnieres for all banquet attendees and to make table flower center pieces. They also made a large reproduction of the APS emblem out of varied colored stamps. That work now hangs at the APS headquarters in Bellefonte. The committee also planned a night of harness racing for convention goers. Batavia Downs named one race the Rochester Philatelic Trot. During committee meetings that her husband Warren attended, Betty Stevens hooked a 6x8 foot rug reproducing the inverted jenny stamp. She gave that to me after the convention and I in turn, when I downsized, presented it to the APS where it now hangs in its headquarters with a plaque recognizing Betty and Warren Stevens for their work in philately.

During this time the Rochester association also undertook another program that had not previously been done to my knowledge. Jim Papin obtained a microfilm machine from Kodak and in a hotel room prior to mounting he and I opened and microfilmed every page of every exhibit. I do not recall whether this was at the 1963 show or the 1968 show, probably the former. We gave the microfilm reel to the APS library for preservation after the exhibition closed. We also persuaded the APS to repeat the World Series of Philately at future conventions.

Conclusion

I will never forget the time I spent in Rochester and my many philatelic friends in the area. I know that a few are still around. Mark Hull, Ray Stone and last year I met Bill Arthur, now living in Utica, on an APS stamp cruise. Rochester was a great place to raise a family, and I am pleased that Rochester philately is still alive and well. Best wishes for this year's double exhibition, which must be another first for the Rochester Philatelic Association and ROPEX. Good luck to all of you!

Looking Forward...

Ok, we've taken a look at our past and present, but what's in store for the future? These remain trying times for our hobby. The very use of stamps themselves is in danger of going the way of the dinosaurs with a reduction in letter writing and the emergence of printable postage. Most club memberships around the country are dwindling. The amount of free time we all have to spend on leisure activities seems on the decline as well.

But I'd like to believe there will continue to be a core of curious people interested in learning from philately's many lessons—history, culture, geography—and take pleasure in the pride and accomplishment our treasure hunting brings us.

Tom